

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A network router having an internal automated backup, comprising:
 - a primary port facility;
 - a card array having at least one unutilized backup router card; and
 - a switched fabric, wherein the switched fabric automatically replaces a failed router card connected to the primary port facility with a an unutilized backup router card from the card array.
2. (Original) The router of claim 1, wherein the primary port facility comprises a primary processor and a secondary processor.
3. (Original) The router of claim 1, wherein the primary port facility has serial connection ports for connecting to router cards.
4. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 1, wherein the switched fabric comprises:
 - an information system for receiving a failure message from the primary port facility; and
 - a switching system for ~~mechanically~~ physically replacing the failed router card with the backup router card in response to the failure message.

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5. (Original) The router of claim 4, wherein the information system includes a bus for communicating routing information between the primary port facility and the card array.
6. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 4, wherein the switching system includes a replacement mechanism for ~~mechanically~~ physically replacing the failed router card with the backup router card.
7. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 1, wherein the failed router card is physically moved into an expanded bay by the switched fabric.
8. (Currently Amended) A network router having an internal automated backup, comprising:
- a primary port facility;
 - a card array having at least one unutilized backup router card; and
 - a switched fabric for automatically replacing a failed router card connected to the primary port facility with a an unutilized backup router card from the card array, wherein the switched fabric includes an information system for receiving a failure message from the primary port facility and a switching system for replacing the failed router card with the unutilized backup router card.
9. (Original) The router of claim 8, whercin the primary port facility includes a primary processor and a secondary processor.

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10. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 8, wherein the switching system includes a replacement mechanism for ~~mechanically~~ physically replacing the failed router card with the backup router card.

11. (Original) The router of claim 8, wherein the information system includes a bus for communicating routing information between the primary port facility and the card array.

12. (Original) The router of claim 8, wherein router cards connect to the primary port facility and the card array via male-female connections.

13. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 8, wherein the failed router card is physically moved into an expanded bay by the switched fabric.

14. (Currently Amended) A network router having an internal automated backup, comprising:

- a primary port facility having a primary processor and a secondary processor;
- a card array having unutilized backup router cards; and
- a switched fabric for automatically replacing a failed router card connected to the primary port facility with ~~a~~ an unutilized backup router card from the card array, wherein the switched fabric includes an information system for receiving a failure message from the primary port facility and a switching system for ~~mechanically~~ physically replacing the failed router card with the unutilized backup router card.

15. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 14, wherein the switching system comprises a replacement mechanism that physically connects and disconnects router cards from the primary port facility and the card array.

16. (Original) The router of claim 15, wherein the router cards connect to the primary port facility and the card array via male-female connections.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~route~~ router of claim 14, wherein the information system includes a bus that communicates routing information between the primary port facility to the card array.

18. (Currently Amended) The router of claim 14, wherein the failed router card is physically moved into an expanded bay by the switched fabric.

19. (New) The router of claim 6, wherein the replacement mechanism physically disconnects the failed router card from the primary port facility, moves the failed router card to an expanded bay, physically disconnects the unutilized backup router card from the card array, and connects the unutilized backup router card to the primary port facility from which the failed router card was moved.